

STAT

The Washington Post _____
 The New York Times _____
 The Washington Times _____
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The Christian Science Monitor _____
 New York Daily News _____
 USA Today _____
 The Chicago Tribune _____
 Date 29 AUG 1991

Richard Kerr named acting CIA chief

WASHINGTON, Aug 29 (AFP) - Richard Kerr, deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), has been named to take over as acting director when William Webster retires next week, the agency said Thursday.

Kerr, 55, will step into the post September 2 and will remain until a permanent CIA director is confirmed by the Senate.

Webster planned to retire in July but agreed to stay on until the beginning of September after the Senate postponed confirmation hearings for President George Bush's nominee for the job, Robert Gates.

The Senate Intelligence Committee delayed the hearings after information arose about Gates' ties to the Iran-contra scandal.

Former CIA official Alan Fiers provided testimony in July which legislators believe could link Gates to a cover-up of the 1984-1986 diversion of funds from arms sales to Iran to the contra rebels in Nicaragua, in violation of a congressional ban on such assistance.

Kerr, of Fort Smith, Arkansas, has also been cited in connection with the Iran-contra scandal.